SOUTHERN FOREST PEST REPORTER

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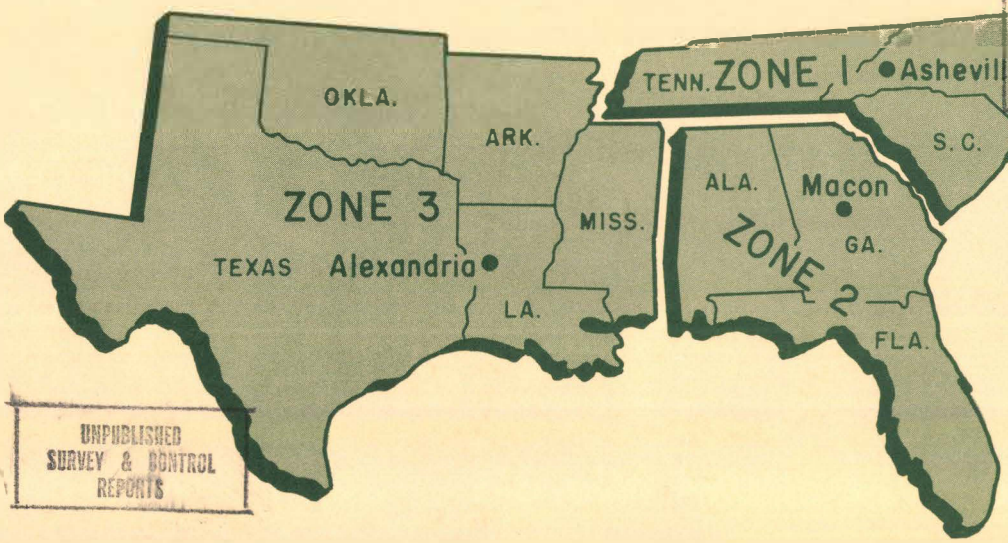

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION

BRANCH OF FOREST INSECT
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FIELD OFFICES
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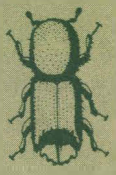

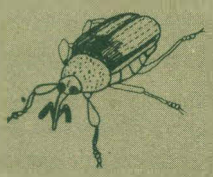

SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

... An increase in southern pine beetle activity and spot size is occurring in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Beetle populations over the remainder of the Region remain relatively low except for a few localized spots.

... Black turpentine beetle populations are showing seasonal increases in Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina and Texas.

... Ips beetle activity while relatively low continues to cause mortality of single and small groups of trees throughout the Region.

... Elm spanworm activity in western North Carolina has declined to an endemic level. Egg parasitism by Telenomus alsophilae and infertile eggs appear to be the major factors involved.

... Detection surveys for oak wilt are being conducted in Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

... Yellow poplar decline has been reported from the Grandfather and Cheoah Ranger Districts of the National Forests in North Carolina.

FILE COPY
FOREST INSECT
RESEARCH
MISSOULA, MONTANA

STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.

ALABAMA — Southern pine beetle activity on the Talladega National Forest continues at a low level. A survey of the Conecuh in May failed to reveal any beetle activity.

GEORGIA — Beetle activity on the Chattahoochee National Forest continues at a reduced population level.

LOUISIANA — Recent surveys in southwest Louisiana show southern pine beetle populations to be increasing rapidly. The epidemic is confined to the West Bay area of Allen Parish. Cooperative control efforts are in progress.

MISSISSIPPI — An increase in southern pine beetle activity on the Homochitto National Forest and adjacent private lands is shown by recent surveys. Healthy, aggressive broods indicate a further increase.

NORTH CAROLINA — The southern pine beetle outbreak in the upper Piedmont has gradually decreased in severity. Small infestations are still present in Davidson, Randolph and Yadkin Counties. Southern pine beetle activity has also declined in Vance and Warren Counties due to salvage efforts by landowners and natural control factors. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

SOUTH CAROLINA — A steady decline in southern pine beetle activity is evident in the Piedmont and mountain districts of the National Forests in South Carolina. Populations are considered to be at an endemic level. The number of trees infested on the Tyger District decreased from 9.4 trees per thousand acres in December 1963 to 0.47 trees per thousand acres in April 1964. On the Andrew Pickens District, they declined from 1.8 infested trees per thousand acres in March to 0.21 trees per thousand acres in May. Active infestations are at present restricted to the Round Mountain area in the southwestern portion of the district.

The southern pine beetle epidemic on the Francis Marion National Forest declined from 17.2 infested trees per thousand acres in March to 0.82 infested trees per thousand acres during May. A few large spots are still present in the Wambaw District.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (Cont'd)

TEXAS — Results of recent surveys show an increase in beetle activity. New infestations are located over the entire 4,500,000 acres previously infested. Beetle activity is increasing, spot size is becoming larger, with fresh attacks occurring on large numbers of green trees. Area of infestation covers both National Forest and State and private land. Cooperative control efforts are in progress.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus terebrans (Oliver)

ARKANSAS — Increased black turpentine beetle activity is prevalent in the pine growing areas of the State. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)

FLORIDA — Black turpentine beetles began attacking first year turpentine faced longleaf and slash pine on the Osceola National Forest. Serious losses were caused by the turpentine beetle in this area two years ago.

NORTH CAROLINA — Black turpentine beetle is prevalent in and around log decks and logging areas on the Croatan National Forest.

Both black turpentine beetle and red turpentine beetle, D. valens LeConte were found infesting lodgepole pine plantations in the vicinity of Mt. Mitchell.

Black turpentine beetle caused considerable loss in a white pine plantation on the Pisgah District of the National Forests in North Carolina.

TEXAS — The black turpentine beetle has been active in areas logged last year on the Trinity Ranger District, Davy Crockett National Forest. Turpentine beetles were found attacking trees in a seed-tree area and adjacent stands cut in the fall of 1963 on the Big Thicket Ranger District of the Sam Houston National Forest.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES

ARKANSAS — Increased Ips beetle activity has been noticed across the pine growing regions of the State. Infestations are in single trees or small groups of trees. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)

IPS (Cont'd)

TEXAS — Ips beetles have been active on the Trinity Ranger District of Davy Crockett National Forest since 1963. Salvage operations are underway to reduce losses.

Loblolly pine mortality caused by Ips beetles has been reported from Bastrop County. (Texas Forest Service)

Ips beetle activity is generally at a low level over the remainder of the Region but continues to cause considerable mortality.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR, Malacosoma disstria (Hbn.)

ALABAMA — Aerial surveys of the Mobile, Tombigbee, Tensaw and Alabama river bottoms showed that forest tent caterpillar defoliation was confined to Tupelo gum stands. Approximately 12,680 acres were completely defoliated and 3,410 acres were lightly defoliated in the Stockton-Ft. Stoddard area. This represents a decrease from 1963 levels.

LOUISIANA — Forest tent caterpillar defoliation declined considerably in the spring of 1964. A reconnaissance survey in late April showed significant defoliation only in the vicinity of Krotz Springs.

LOBLOLLY PINE SAWFLY, Neodiprion taedae linearis (Ross)

ARKANSAS — Sawfly infestations were heavier than at any time since the 1946-47 outbreak. Defoliation occurred in Ouachita, Calhoun, Cleveland, Bradley, Ashley and Union Counties. Infestations are now active in Washington and Benton Counties. (Arkansas Forest Pest Report)

LOUISIANA — An estimated 2,500 acres were defoliated by the loblolly pine sawfly in the vicinity of Georgetown and Urania.

MISSISSIPPI — The loblolly pine sawfly defoliated about 10 acres of loblolly pine on the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge in Winston County.

BALSAM WOOLLY APHID, Chermes piceae (Ratz)

Small infestations on ornamental fraser fir continue to occur in Watauga, Mitchell and Avery Counties, North Carolina. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

BALSAM WOOLLY APHID (Cont'd)

A number of dead and dying fir was detected during an aerial survey of the spruce-fir type conducted during April. Current ground checks of this mortality do not show it to be caused by the balsam woolly aphid.

PINE REPRODUCTION WEEVILS

NORTH CAROLINA — Pales weevil, Hylobius pales (Hbst.) continued to cause damage in pine plantations on the Croatan National Forest where sites were prepared by a rolling chopper. As many as 18 percent of the seedlings in individual plantations had adult feeding injury by early June even though all seedlings planted in 1964 were dipped in Aldrin prior to planting. Evaluation of pales damage on lands of Riegel Paper Company near Bolton, North Carolina, is continuing.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Adult feeding injury was light on pine seedlings planted in the Callas Gap burn on the Andrew Pickens District.

Pales and pitch-eating weevils are active in other parts of the Region but damage is reported light.

ELM SPANWORM, Ennomos subsignarius (Hbn.)

NORTH CAROLINA — Preliminary observations indicate that the elm spanworm infestation in western North Carolina has declined to an endemic level. Fourth instar larvae were present in small numbers by early June, but no noticeable damage was observed. A biological evaluation, designed to determine the cause of this collapse, is underway and indicates that heavy egg parasitism by Telenomus alsophilae Vier. and a high percentage of infertile eggs are the major factors involved.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

MISSISSIPPI — A weevil - tentatively identified as the white fringed beetle, Graphognathus sp. - has caused mortality to direct-seeded longleaf pine near Hattiesburg.

NORTH CAROLINA — The pine bark aphid, Pineus strobi (Htg.), was abundant on eastern white pine in Ashe, Avery and Watauga Counties.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

ANNOSUS ROOT ROT, Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cooke

TENNESSEE — Annosus root rot was reported to be especially damaging on the Natchez Trace State Park in Carroll and Henderson Counties.

REGION-WIDE — Annosus root rot has been detected in Tattnall County, Georgia, where it is causing progressive mortality in high-value areas. The disease is also causing concern to foresters in Alabama and Florida where recent evaluations show that mortality is occurring in 3-4 year old slash pine plantations. Other new infection centers continue to be reported. As F. annosus can be found in most stands thinned 2 years or more, these reports are the result of landowners becoming more aware of the disease rather than additional spread.

OAK WILT, Ceratocystis fagacearum (Bretz.) Hunt

ARKANSAS & OKLAHOMA — Detection surveys for oak wilt are being conducted in these two States.

NORTH CAROLINA — The North Carolina oak wilt survey started June 22.

TENNESSEE — The Tennessee Division of Forestry in cooperation with Zone 1, is conducting a survey to determine the distribution of oak wilt in Tennessee.

TEXAS — Oak wilt was found on a group of approximately 15 native oaks near Dallas in 1963. (Plant Disease Reporter - May 15, 1964)

FUSIFORM RUST, Cronartium fusiforme (A. & K.) Hedgc. & Hunt

Fusiform rust is a major disease of slash and loblolly pine in the south. Trees of all ages are subject to attacks. Losses result from weakened, disfigured and broken stems. Mortality occurs mostly in plantations under 5 years of age where stem cankers are prevalent.

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST, Cronartium ribicola Fischer

Blister Rust continues to cause damage to young unprotected white pine stands at the higher elevations in North Carolina. Infections on white pine were reported for the first time in Graham County. Severe infections were reported in white pine stands in Mitchell County. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

YELLOW POPLAR DECLINE (Cause Unknown)

NORTH CAROLINA — The decline of yellow poplar previously reported on the Grandfather District, now covers about 10 acres. A similar condition has been reported on the Cheoah District. Symptoms include stagheading, dieback, thin foliage, dwarfing of leaves and water sprouts.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

NORTH CAROLINA — Die-out of loblolly pine has been detected in Lincoln and Mecklenburg Counties. Unfavorable soil conditions appear to be the cause of this condition. (North Carolina Division of Forestry)

Needle cast has been wide spread through Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Private landowners have been quite concerned in areas where infection was heavy.

Pitch canker was observed on Virginia pine in North Georgia and has been reported on high value trees in Athens, Georgia.

Black root rot and damping off have been causing some mortality to pine seedlings in Zone 2.

Some mortality has been reported from Beauregard Nursery, DeRidder, Louisiana. Cause is unknown.